

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 74026

1. THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN EGYPT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT
ROLE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PRODUCING 25-30 PERCENT
AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE VALUE OF WORK
FOR LAND PREPARATION, PUMPING, THRESHING ETC.

2. EGYPT HAS VIRTUALLY NO LAND AREA SUITABLE ONLY FOR
FORAGE PRODUCTION. THUS FORAGE MUST BE PRODUCED UNDER
IRRIGATION IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH CEREAL GRAINS AND
OTHER HIGH VALUE CROPS. BERSEEM CLOVER PRESENTLY OCCUPIES
GREATER LAND SURFACE THAN ANY OTHER CROP. THIS IS PARTIALLY
RESULT OF NEED FOR CLOVER IN ROTATION FOR SOIL TILTH/CROP
SANITATION REQUIREMENTS BUT IS PREDOMINANTLY DUE ECONOMIC
VALUE TO FARMER. CLOVER USED BY FARMER A) TO FEED ANIMALS
PROVIDING POWER REQUIREMENTS, B) AS DIRECT CASH CROP SOLD
FOR USE DRAYAGE ANIMALS IN CITIES AND VILLAGES, AND C) TO
PRODUCE MEAT/MILK TO BE SOLD AT PRICES WHICH PROVIDE
RETURN HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER FARM ENTERPRISES.

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3. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION CHARACTERIZED BY FRAGMENTA-
TION INTO SMALL HERDS USUALLY COMPRISING 2-3 MATURE
FEMALES PLUS ONE OR MORE YOUNG STOCK.. PREDOMINANT USE
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OF CATTLE AND BUFFALO FOR POWER REQUIREMENTS CONSIDER-

ABLY REDUCES EFFICIENCY FOR MILK/MEAT PRODUCTION. THUS FIRST STEP TOWARD INCREASED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION MUST NECESSARILY INVOLVE FREEING LIVESTOCK FROM POWER PRODUCTION THROUGH MECHANIZATION OF SOME OR ALL FARM OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY WATER LIFTING.

4. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ALSO CONSTRAINED BY ABSENCE MODERN HUSBANDRY TECHNIQUES. ALTHOUGH MODERN TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY IN MINISTRY, UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT FARMS IT DOES NOT REACH FARM LEVEL. EXCEPT FOR DISEASE CONTROL WHERE SOME IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES REMAIN MUCH THE SAME AS HAVE EXISTED FOR CENTURIES.

5. HOWEVER FEED SUPPLY IS MAJOR CONSTRAINT TO LIVESTOCK SECTOR. ALTHOUGH BERSEEM CLOVER SUPPLIES MUCH OF REQUIREMENT DURING WINTER, LIVESTOCK RECEIVE ONLY SURVIVAL RATIONS DURING SUMMER WHEN FORAGE LARGELY NOT AVAILABLE. CEREAL GRAINS AND PROTEIN CONCENTRATES ALSO IN SHORT SUPPLY AND UNDER CONTROL OF PUBLIC SECTOR. THUS SMALL FARMER WHO PRODUCES MAJORITY FATTENED CATTLE TENDS MAXIMIZE USE OF FORAGE AND MINIMIZE CONCENTRATE FEEDS.

6. THUS IN EGYPT GOVERNMENT MUST FIRST ADDRESS ITSELF TO ORDERING OF PRIORITIES IN ORDER DETERMINE WHETHER TO STRESS DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION OR DEPEND LARGELY ON IMPORTS. MAJOR ISSUES FOR PROGRAM TO INCREASE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ARE THOSE OF POWER REQUIREMENTS, COMPETITION OF FEED/FORAGE PRODUCTION WITH ALTERNATIVE CROPS AND DISPERSED:FRAGMENTED NATURE LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS.

7. AS MISSION DEVELOPS AGRICULTURE PROGRAM LIVESTOCK SECTOR MUST NECESSARILY RECEIVE MAJOR CONSIDERATION. THEREFORE WOULD APPEAR THAT MISSION WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN ADDRESSING ABOVE ISSUES AS WELL AS OTHERS ALTHOUGH EXACT TYPE ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED AS YET NOT DEFINED.

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